

OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

Year Ended 31st December, 1948

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE, M.D., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

L. R. CHAPMAN, Cert.R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Foods.

Engineer and Surveyor:

L. G. BAILEY, F.F.S.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

L. E. LETHBRIDGE, Cert.R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Foods.

Clerks in the Department:

I. G. CANN.

T. MARSHALL.

Miss M. BRAY.



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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1948.

The general health of the district was average throughout the year and of the infectious diseases only Whooping Cough was at all widespread.

SECTION A.

GENERAL

The Registrar General estimates that there was a net gain of ten persons over the previous year.

The births were slightly in excess of the previous year and exceeded the deaths by fifty-five. A general statistical inference can be drawn from a study of the accompanying tables.

General Statistics

Area (in acres)	132,514
Population—1931 Census	13,020
Estimated Population—Mid 1948	12,300
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,775
Rateable Value	£53,478
Product of Penny Rate	£221
Loan Debt	£204,744

Vital Statistics

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Live Births ...	100	112	212
Legitimate ...	92	104	
Illegitimate ...	8	8	
<i>England and Wales.</i>			
Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	17.2		17.9
Still Births		7	
Still Birth Rate		31.9	0.42
	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Deaths	77	80	157
Death Rate per 1,000 population ...	12.8		10.8
Deaths from Maternal Causes ...		1	
Maternal Mortality		4.6	1.02
Deaths of Infants under 1 year ...		10	
Infantile Mortality		47	34

The chief causes of death were :—

INFECTIOUS CAUSES :

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Influenza	2
Acute Enteritis	4

GENERAL CAUSES :

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	36
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	25
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	23
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	11
Senility	...	...	...	...	...	10
Coronary Thrombosis	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	6
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	4
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2
Enlarged Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastric Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1
Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	10

INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR :

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	4
Congenital Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Broncho pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Monstrosity	...	...	...	...	...	1
						<hr/> 157 <hr/>

Age of Death Table

<i>Age.</i>					<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	...	7	3
1-5	...	...	...	...	—	1
5-15	...	...	...	...	—	—
15-25	...	...	...	...	1	—
25-35	...	...	...	...	2	3
35-45	...	...	...	...	—	2
45-55	...	...	...	...	4	4
55-65	...	...	...	...	8	15
65-75	...	...	...	...	21	19
75 and Over	...	...	...	...	34	33
					<hr/> 77 <hr/>	<hr/> 80 <hr/>
					<i>Total—157</i>	

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES

Up to the appointed day for the implementation of the National Health Service Act, the general provisions of the health services remained as in previous years and were reasonably adequate. After 5th July, 1948, the Hospital and Public Assistance Institution became vested in the South West Regional Hospital Board, and are managed by the Mid Devon Management Committee.

The immunisation services which had been very well received by the public ceased to be a responsibility of your Council and were centralised in Exeter.

Maternity Accommodation.—The Memorial Hospital at Okehampton and the Winsford Cottage Hospital are still used for this purpose, the County Council acting as agents for the Hospital Board in respect of the admission of patients.

The accommodation is inadequate but it is understood that the Board are contemplating its augmentation. The difficulty with home nursing is so great that practically half the confinements are taking place outside the home—either at the above-mentioned premises or other institutions outside the district or at the home of the mother's parents.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Before setting out in some detail the work of the department during the year it is well to take a “birds eye” view of circumstances in general.

It is at once obvious that there is a lack of balance between the purely sanitary services provided by your Council and the more personal services provided by the County or various Boards. For example, in the towns, water and drainage were provided long before any economic pressure was put on the townsfolk for such things as educational programmes, etc., and they can now bear these burdens without interfering with essential amenities already provided. On the other hand in the Rural Area in many cases these necessities, not having yet been provided for a variety of reasons, this very economic pressure is tending to further delay progress in their provision. In other words, in the rural district first things have not received first place, and those who wish to see a renaissance of village life and all this stands for, will have to find a way to resolve this economic problem.

It is certain that paring the district rate as the county precept rises will never provide essential sanitary amenities and will, in the long run, tend to nullify the beneficial effect of the educational programme itself.

Sanitary inspection of your district proceeded throughout the year by a series of starts and stops. This is an unsatisfactory state of affairs, as sanitary conditions in many of your villages are such that a major epidemic may be expected at any time. A variety of factors contribute towards this state of affairs. In the first place there is lack of co-ordination between the various branches due to the departments being in separate buildings ; this makes it impossible for the clerical work to be dealt with in one stage. Together with this there is an acute shortage of staff both technical and clerical, so that the least extra stress calls for one job to be dropped in favour of another with resultant inefficiency. I ask your Council to consider this state of affairs most seriously.

Water Supply.

The table at the end of the report gives an up to date position of your water supplies.

Analysis of Water Supplies.—The subjoined table sets out the number of samples taken for analysis.

	<i>No. of samples taken.</i>	<i>Passed.</i>	<i>Failed.</i>
Bacteriological Examination of			
Water	29	8	21
Chemical Analysis of Water ...	2	1	1

Under powers delegated by the North Devon Water Board the following operations were undertaken to safeguard supplies already in existence.

NORTH TAWTON.

A permanent pump has been installed and housed, and what was regarded as an emergency supply is now being regarded as a permanent scheme to augment supplies from spring and the bore-hole. Apart from this installation there would undoubtedly have been a serious shortage of water during the year.

HATHERLEIGH.

During the summer there was a serious falling off in the yield of the springs feeding the pumping system. As no additional spring water was available in the area and the only alternative supply being the River Lew flowing nearby, it was considered necessary, as a precautionary measure, to make arrangements for this supply to be used. For this to be done a sand filter was constructed and after settling down a water was delivered which, after chlorination, could be used in an emergency. It was, however, not found necessary to make use of this auxiliary supply.

Additional Water Scheme carried out during the year.

Extension of 3" main from Belstone to Skaigh—88 yards.

Additional Water Schemes prepared and either in hand or not commenced.

(a) Extension from Jacobstowe to Hayes Barton—570 yards (in hand).

(b) Extension from Broomhill to Teign Marsh, Chagford (in hand).

(c) New piped supply from Ash to Forder and Wonson.

Drainage and Sewerage.

As usual, I must point out that there are innumerable instances of defective sanitation and sewage disposal in the Rural District, any one of which might give rise to tragedy amongst the people you represent. It is fully realised that the cure of these conditions is primarily a financial one, nevertheless the matter will have to be faced and dealt with even if it is at the expense of the present education or health services—after all the latter in the long run depend on a healthy environment.

New Works and Maintenance.

The new scheme for Sandy Park is almost completed and will shortly be submitted to the Ministry of Health for loan sanction.

A scheme to extend the present sewer from Shelly, South Zeal, to the Rising Sun Inn was deferred because of high costs.

A scheme to link all properties from Zeal Head to Ford Cross and there to the Housing Site, South Zeal, is in course of preparation.

A new filter bed and effluent pipe line has been constructed at Broomhill, Chagford, to abate a serious public health nuisance being caused by the overflowing septic tank taking the drainage from the houses.

A new septic tank and filter bed has been constructed to deal with the sewerage of Iddesleigh.

A number of cases of defective drainage of private properties have been found during inspections and where public sewers are not available small private sewage disposal systems have been constructed by the owners in accordance with a standard drawing and specifications prepared by the Health Department.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Many complaints were personally investigated by your Medical Officer and recommendations given on the spot.

Below is a table recording the outside work done by the inspectors :—

<i>Types of Premises.</i>	<i>Number of Inspections.</i>	<i>Number of Notices Served.</i>	<i>Number of Notices Complied with.</i>
Houses inspected	702	111	100
Houses re-inspected	209	—	—
Premises other than houses not mentioned below	61	16	14
Food Premises	34	5	5
Cowsheds and dairies	104	25	14
Refuse Tips	55	—	—
Public Conveniences	58	—	—
Public Water Supplies	247	—	—
Private Water Supplies	101	4	4
Drainage	67	—	—
Sewers	110	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds	5	—	—
Infectious Diseases	24	—	—
Miscellaneous Visits not Classi- fied	112	—	—
TOTALS	1889	161	137

Rat Infestation.

First Inspections and Re-inspections:—

Private Houses	580
Business Premises	620
Tips	180
Salvage Stores	35
Sewers and Sewerage Outfalls	500
TOTAL	1915

*Types of Poisons Used:—*Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic and Red Squills.

(Note.—Visits in connection with rat infestation are not included in general record of inspections.)

Total Number of Baiting Points ...	12,785
Total Number of Dead Rats recovered after treatments	2,551

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

In view of the increasing cost of refuse and salvage collection by private contractors a detailed scheme was prepared by the Health Department providing for collection by direct labour and the provision of modern refuse vehicles. After due consideration by the Council it has been deferred for the time being.

It is most strongly recommended that the Council do tackle this problem as collections of rubbish are an established cause of disease if only from the fly nuisance.

You are referred to last year's report for a list of collections.

Salvage.

The total weight of salvage collected during the year in the larger parishes of the district was :—

22 tons. 19 cwt. 31 lbs.

Schools.

All the schools in the district were visited several times during the year. The children are generally very clean and healthy and enjoy their mid-day lunch.

Some of the village schools nowhere nearly conform to the standard required by the new Education Act but in the opinion of the writer it would be more advantageous to bring the villages and hamlets up to a decent hygienic standard before launching on a vast building programme for schools.

Factories.

The administration of the Factories Act, 1937, in its application to the Rural District, has been carried out, and regular inspections made. The subjoined tables set these out in compliance with the Statutory form submitted for completion.

1. Inspections.

<i>Premises.</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register.</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written Notices.</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted.</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	54	60	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	54	60	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

<i>Particulars</i> (1)	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i> (6)
	<i>Found</i> (2)	<i>Remedied</i> (3)	<i>Referred</i> <i>To H.M. Inspector</i> (4)		<i>By H.M. Inspector</i> (5)
Want of Cleanliness ...	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation ...	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	3	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	12	11	Nil	Nil	Nil

3. Outwork.

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)</i>
Wearing Apparel—Making, etc.	5

SECTION D.

HOUSING

The housing survey proceeded by fits and starts owing, as has been mentioned, to lack of staff. During the year 664 houses have been inspected in connection with the Rural Housing Survey, and the position at the present time is as follows :—

Total number of houses inspected	...	...	1,166
Houses fit in all respects	...	...	157
Houses with minor defects only	...	...	585
Houses requiring structural alterations or repair			288
Houses requiring reconditioning	...	...	82
Houses requiring demolition or replacement	...		54

The following report and tables have been submitted by Mr. Bailey with which I entirely concur except the passage "a grave problem to which there seems to be no obvious, and certainly no easy solution." The answer, as I see it, is adequate staff for full supervision together with the realisation by the Council of the fact that they are landlords of almost a half million estate with its resultant responsibilities.

The repair and maintenance of the Council's existing properties present a grave problem to which there seems to be no obvious, and certainly no easy solution. Most of the houses require attention to a relatively major degree, generally comprising replacements to fittings, repairs to the fabric, external painting, damp-proofing and plumbing. At present day costs it has been found that even to replace a cooking stove of modern efficient design the cost is rarely below £30, including labour for fixing, and a similar sum is approximate for external painting and repair as demanded for a single house. Thus, provided the Council could meet these costs, a sum total of say £7,000 could be expended in any one year, and this without regard to unforeseen items occurring, such as has been experienced with the occurrence of dry rot, re-tiling of roofs, forced improvements to domestic water supplies and the like.

Although likely to cause some controversy, it is a fact that many tenants of the Council's properties do not provide the same measure of care which would be given under responsible private ownership, and this is evidenced by the numerous requests received for attention to be given to defective windows, doors, kitchen fittings, fences and gates, where timely attention by the tenants themselves would have prevented major damage from occurring. It is considered by the Department that some tenants feel that a super repair service is available, only requiring notification to carry out the most trifling repair, and relating their demands to what they consider to be excessive rentals. Additionally, many of the gardens leave much to be desired, whilst some are completely neglected. Although the foregoing is not pleasant, there are some tenants where houses reflect the care and pride taken in them, and where the general condition and appearance are excellent in all respects, and although it is the aim of the Department to bring all Council owned properties to this standard it is difficult to see how this is to be accomplished without a co-operating major factor of the tenants themselves.

HOUSING PROGRAMME

<i>PARISH</i>	<i>Number of Houses commenced during 1948 and completed before June, 1949</i>	<i>Number of Houses in course of erec- tion at June, 1949</i>	<i>Sites selected</i>	<i>Sites approved</i>	<i>Layout Plans Approved</i>	<i>House Plans Approved</i>	<i>Number of Houses proposed for 1949 Housing Programme</i>	<i>Anticipated Com- mencement during 1949</i>	<i>Anticipated Com- pletion during 1949</i>	<i>Proposed Future Development to Close Sites</i>	<i>Ordnance Survey Location</i>
Belstone (T)	—	—	*	—	—	—	4	4	4	2	O.S.233
Chagford (T) and (NT) ... Orchard Meadow	8 (T) 6 (NT)	5 (T)	*	*	*	*	6 (T)	6 (T)	5 (T)	—	O.S.586
Chagford (T) New Street	—	—	*	*	*	—	3 (T)	3 (T)	—	—	O.S.696
Drewsteignton (T)	—	—	*	*	—	—	4 (T)	4 (T)	4 (T)	12	O.S.449 and 495
Exbourne (T)	—	—	*	—	—	—	2 (T)	2 (T)	2 (T)	—	O.S.143
Hatherleigh (T)	—	—	*	*	*	*	14 (T)	14 (T)	6 (T)	—	O.S.635 and 638
Inwardleigh (NT)	—	—	*	*	*	*	2 (NT)	2 (NT)	2 (NT)	—	O.S.803
North Tawton (T) Essington	—	16 (T)	*	*	*	*	—	—	16 (T)	—	O.S.582
Northlew (T)	—	—	*	*	—	—	4 (T)	4 (T)	4 (T)	—	O.S.339
Sampford Courtenay Tongue End (T)	—	—	*	*	*	—	2 (T)	2 (T)	2 (T)	—	O.S.309
Sourton (T)	—	—	*	*	*	—	6 (T)	6 (T)	6 (T)	—	O.S.552
South Tawton (NT) South Zeal	2 (NT)	10 (NT)	*	*	*	*	—	—	10 (NT)	—	O.S.2365
Spreyton (T)	—	—	*	—	—	—	4 (T)	4 (T)	4 (T)	—	O.S.651
Throwleigh (T)	—	2 (T)	*	*	*	*	—	—	2 (T)	—	O.S.327 and 328
	8 (T) 8 (NT)	23 (T) 10 (NT)					48 (T) 2 (NT)	48 (T) 2 (NT)	55 (T) 12 (NT)		

COUNCIL HOUSES IN THE OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT, 1948

<i>Parish.</i>		<i>Situation.</i>	<i>No. of Houses.</i>	<i>Total No. in Parish.</i>
Beaworthy	...	Black Hill	2	
		Patchacott	2	4
Belstone	...	Tor Down,		
		Belstone	6	6
Bondleigh	...	Bondleigh	4	4
Bratton Clovelly	...	Bratton Clovelly	3	3
Bridestowe	...	Bridestowe	8	8
Broadwoodkelly	...	Broadwoodkelly	2	
		Splatt	1	3
Chagford	...	Dennis Park	33	
		Biera View	8	
		Orchard Meadow	14	
		" Monte Rosa "	5 (Flats)	60
Drewsteignton	...	Drewsteignton	8	
		Whiddon Down	8	16
Exbourne	...	Exbourne	2	2
Germansweek	...	—	—	—
Gidleigh	...	—	—	—
Hatherleigh	...	Moor View Terrace	12	
		Higher Street	6	
		Normandy Place	4	22
Highampton	...	Highampton	2	2
Iddesleigh	...	Iddesleigh	2	2
Inwardleigh	...	Folly Gate	6	6
Jacobstowe	...	—	—	—
Meeth	...	Meeth	10	10
Monkokehampton	...	—	—	—
Northlew with Ashbury	...	Northlew	4	4
North Tawton	...	Barton Hill	16	
		Fore Street	8	24
Okehampton Hamlets	...	Chichacott	4	
		Peacewater	2	6
Sampford Courtenay	...	Sampford Village	4	
		Station	4	8
Sourton	...	Sourton Village	4	
		Down	6	10
South Tawton	...	South Tawton	6	
		South Zeal	16	22
Spreyton	...	Spreyton	6	6
Throwleigh	...	Throwleigh	2	
		Wonson	2	4
GRAND TOTAL			...	232

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk.

The inspectors took 113 samples of milk during the year of which 58% passed the test and 42% failed. The results of analysis are set out hereunder.

<i>Grade.</i>	<i>No. Samples Taken.</i>	<i>Passed.</i>	<i>Failed.</i>
Accredited	34	18	16
Tuberculin Tested	51	35	16
Pasteurised School	1	1	—
Tuberculin Tested School	2	1	1
Ungraded School	25	11	14
TOTALS	113	66	47

Cowsheds.

Some progress is being made in the adaptation of existing premises and the provision of new buildings throughout the district, and producers are realising the sound economy in providing new shippens rather than attempt to use unsuitable buildings. During the year 16 new cowsheds were built in this rural area.

At the request of the Milk Production Officer of the Agricultural Executive Committee, 34 premises were inspected as to their suitability for milk production and of these :—

Number of premises where permanent licences were recommended and granted	7
Number of premises where temporary licences were recommended and granted	24
Number of premises where refusal was recommended and no licence granted	3
	34

Food Premises.

As the result of an observation by the M.O.H. it was considered necessary to bring to the notice of all people engaged in food preparation the provisions of Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. It was found that 74 premises had a catering licence and all were served with the contents of this section dealing with cleanliness, etc., and instructed to display same in a prominent place on the premises. Following this regular inspections of premises

were carried out and particular attention was directed to the larger bakehouses within the district. In three cases fairly extensive renovations and adaptations have been completed, as a result of consultations with owners and occupiers, and the premises are well up to modern standards. The standard of cleanliness in food shops and food preparing premises is generally satisfactory. No complaints of unsatisfactory premises, food handlers or conditions have been reported during the year.

Food Poisoning.

No case of food poisoning was notified during the year although the medical practitioners were reminded that this was an obligation. One can therefore assume that no disease was due to this cause.

Meat.

The meat supply continued to come from the Tavistock town abattoir, and was duly inspected there.

By permission of the Tavistock Urban Council the following table of inspections is submitted :—

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep or Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	1589	843	1341	6679	154
Number inspected	1589	843	1341	6679	154
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	24	27	105	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	1294	677	15	1692	28
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	81.62%	83.15%	3.13%	26.9%	18.83%
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	13	30	4	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	110	165	—	—	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.74%	23.13%	0.29%	—	6.49%

In addition to the meat condemned at the Slaughterhouse, 700½ lbs. of corned beef and mutton were condemned at the W.M.S.A. Depot in the Pannier Market.

Inspection of Food and Foodstuffs.

Quantities of unsound foods inspected during the year have resulted in 2 cwts. 96 lbs. of miscellaneous foodstuffs being voluntarily surrendered by owners and certified as unfit for human consumption.

Action taken by the County Inspector under the Food & Drugs Act.

Seventeen samples were taken in the district under the Food & Drugs Act. Eleven were of milk and all were genuine. Average butter fat content was 3.51% and average non-fatty solid content 8.96%.

Six samples were taken of other foods. Only one sample was found to be unsatisfactory (sausages) and stocks were condemned for human consumption.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The district was very fortunate in not having any serious outbreak of infectious disease.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified by practitioners :—

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	33
Measles	...	...	...	...	13
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1

The case of Diphtheria occurred in a young man aged 21 who had been immunised.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified by the schools in the district :—

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	58
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	42
Mumps	...	...	...	...	25
Measles	...	...	...	...	10
Ringworm	...	...	...	...	2
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	1

Although it is possible for the people to be visited by more than a score of infectious conditions it is the good fortune of the district that this does not occur in practice. It will be seen from the above tables that infectious diseases were at a minimum during the year 1948, and there are only two to which I would draw your especial attention—diphtheria and tuberculosis.

Diphtheria.—On the appointed day, 5th July, 1948, your Council ceased to be the responsible authority for the control of this serious disease, and it is considered not inappropriate to here record the past efforts at a local level to control this infection.

Up to about the year 1936, diphtheria had been an ever present menace to this neighbourhood as it was to the rest of the country. On the advice of your M.O.H. your Council voted the necessary money to carry out immunisation, which at that date was very little past the experimental stage. The almost immediate result of this campaign, which was restricted in the first instance to school children, was a drop in the incidence of the disease. The campaign was continued uninterruptedly except for a period during the war, and was entirely satisfactory in reducing the incidence to almost a curiosity.

During this time an elaborate system of filing and checking was evolved and the only people who were not treated were those who had an objection to the procedure. As will be seen from the accompanying table this did not amount to a significant percentage. Before the appointed day your M.O.H. made an offer to the new Health Authority to continue this service and supply any statistics required at any time. The offer was refused in spite of the fact that it was pointed out that the provisions of Section 26 of the Health Act had been in operation for years before the passage of legislation.

It is, I feel, fitting that your Council should be congratulated for having the forethought to sponsor this scheme in the past when it had no official recognition, and to hope that should the present arrangement fail, that you will be prepared, in the future, to re-establish this necessary procedure.

Percentage of Children who had completed full course of
Diphtheria Immunisation to 5th July, 1948

Parish	Under 5 years.		5-14 years.	
	<i>Estimated Population.</i>	<i>Percentage Immunised.</i>	<i>Estimated Population.</i>	<i>Percentage Immunised.</i>
Ashbury	8	25%	17	71%
Beaworthy	16	50%	28	86%
Belstone	19	53%	36	94%
Bondleigh	7	100%	16	94%
Bratton Clovelly ...	19	53%	37	97%
Bridestowe	36	56%	58	91%
Broadwoodkelly ...	9	56%	22	36%
Chagford	104	70%	194	97%
Drewsteignton ...	52	71%	85	98%
Exbourne	19	68%	37	89%
Germansweek	9	67%	12	92%
Gidleigh	3	33%	11	82%
Hatherleigh	47	47%	129	99%
Highampton	10	40%	26	77%
Iddesleigh	8	88%	30	93%
Inwardleigh	34	62%	54	83%
Jacobstowe	8	63%	13	100%
Meeth	9	56%	18	100%
Monkokehampton ...	3	67%	18	94%
Northlew	39	72%	54	94%
North Tawton	71	68%	116	91%
Okehampton Hamlets	32	34%	77	96%
Sampford Courtenay...	28	61%	56	95%
Sourton	20	55%	53	94%
South Tawton	68	62%	91	98%
Spreyton	23	48%	32	94%
Throwleigh	11	73%	30	100%
TOTALS	712	61%	1350	93%

Tuberculosis.—Ten cases of Pulmonary and three cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, and three deaths were recorded from the former. At the end of the year seventy-three cases remained on the register and it must be kept in mind that most of these are capable of and do pass the disease on to others. Tuberculosis is far and away the worst infectious disease we have to deal with, and it is with us year in and year out, so much so that it is almost looked upon as an act of providence rather than an infectious disease.

The present arrangements for the control of this condition will not bear logical scrutiny and are in many cases tragic. The Hospital Board are responsible for those needing hospitalisation, as most do, but there are not enough vacancies ; in the meantime they infect their relations or workmates. The tuberculosis specialists visit the patients at home and follow up visits are made by the County Council Health Visitor, and the general practitioner is responsible for the domiciliary treatment. None of these authorities or persons are in touch with the Sanitary Authority, or Medical Officer of Health, which is the only authority having the necessary means of allocating houses. It would appear that the prevention of this disease calls for a co-ordinated effort by all concerned and that the obvious officer to integrate all the recourses available is the local M.O.H. who should be in possession of all facts available affecting each case.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairman and Council for the ready hearing I have received at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE,

Medical Officer of Health.

OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT WATER SUPPLIES

PARISH	Whether water supply satis. : (a) in quality (b) in quantity	Examinations made	Evidence of contamination	Action taken	Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains : (a) direct to the houses (b) by means of standpipes			
					No. Dwelling Hses., Total Population			
					Main	Stand-pipe	Main	Stand-pipe
ASHBURY	Private wells only Some wells polluted Inadequate in quantity	No piped supply	Well water plumbo-solvent. No action taken during year	Nil	—	—	—	—
BEAWORTHY	Private wells only Inadequate	No piped supply	No analyses during year	Nil	—	—	—	—
BELSTONE	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine examination	Nil	Nil (see body of report)	63	—	212	—
BONDLEIGH	Wells only (a) Surface contamination in some cases (b) Unsatisfactory	Bacteriological Satisfactory	Yes, in the past	Public well repaired Pump mended	—	—	—	—
BRATTON CLOVELLY	Wells (a) Satisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Routine examination	Source improved, still doubtful	General supervision	4	36	15	139
BRIDESTOWE ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine examination	Nil	Nil	72	—	425	—
BROADWOODKELLY ...	Wells only (a) Doubtful (b) Unsatisfactory	Inspection only	Yes	Analysis	—	—	—	—
CHAGFORD	Piped supply from surface springs (a) Doubtful (b) Satisfactory	Analysis unsatisfactory	Yes	Chlorination	346	—	1168	—
DREWSTEIGNTON ...	Water from Quarry (a) Doubtful (b) Satisfactory	Major works undertaken to remove contamination	Yes, but dealt with	Chlorination	80	—	288	—
EXBOURNE	Supply from Borehole (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine	No	Nil	65	—	196	—
GERMANSWEEK ...	Private Wells only (a) Doubtful (b) Doubtful	Nil	In the past	Nil	—	—	—	—
GIDLEIGH	Private supplies only	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—
HATHERLEIGH ...	Water from Springs (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine	Failed Bacteriological tests	Chlorination	256	—	877	—
HIGHAMPTON	Private supplies Two Public Wells	Nil	No	Nil	—	—	—	—
IDDESLEIGH	Two Public Wells (a) Doubtful (b) Unsatisfactory	Routine	In the past	Nil (see report)	—	—	—	—
JACOBSTOWE ...	Piped Supply from Borehole Private Wells only	Nil	No	Nil	—	—	—	—
MEETH	Two Public Wells (a) Doubtful (b) Doubtful	Routine	In the past	Nil	—	—	—	—
MONK OKEHAMPTON ...	Piped Supply from Borehole Public Well (a) Doubtful (b) Unsatisfactory	Nil	In the past	Nil	—	—	—	—
NORTHLEW	Public Well (a) Satisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Routine	No	Nil	—	—	—	—
NORTH TAWTON ...	Water from Springs Borehole into sandstone (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine	Yes, but corrected	Major action (see body of report)	302	—	1012	—
OKEHAMPTON HAMLETS	Private Wells only	Nil	In the past	Nil	—	—	—	—
SAMPFORD COURTNEY	Partly piped (a) Satisfactory (b) Improved	Routine	In the past	Pipes cleared	24	36	97	110
SOURTON	Private Wells only (a) Unsatisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Routine	In the past	Nil	—	—	—	—
SOUTH TAWTON ...	Upland Springs (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine	No	Nil	236	—	798	—
SPREYTON	Wells only (a) Satisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Bacteriological test satisfactory	Not recently	Nil	—	—	—	—
THROWLEIGH ...	Private Supplies	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—
INWARDLEIGH ...	Private Supplies (a) Unsatisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—

